

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RETIREMENT OF DOREEN DOTZLER, DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE OFFICE OF OFFICIAL REPORTERS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Doreen Dotzler, the Deputy Chief of the Office of Official Reporters, as she retires after twenty-three years of service to the House in the Office of the Clerk.

A Minnesota native, Doreen first came to Congress in 1998, working as a House stenographer covering committee assignments for the Clerk's Office. From 2001 to 2014, she served as a stenographer on the House Floor, and then transitioned to a Senior Official Reporter Position before taking on her current role in 2019. Among a great many other responsibilities, over the last seven years, Doreen has read every single word spoken on the House Floor, and over her career she has borne witness to countless historic moments in this chamber. It is in no small part because of her dedication, her knowledge of Congressional procedure, and her attention to detail that the daily CONGRESSIONAL RECORD over her tenure has been consistently accurate and reliable.

After previously delaying her retirement to extend her public service, Doreen leaves her post this year after a distinguished tenure in support of the House and its work. This institution and the American people it serves have greatly benefitted from her work, and I hope all of my colleagues will join me in extending my heartfelt thanks to Doreen and wishing her and her husband Terry and their family the very best as she retires.

CONGRATULATING CAMAS HIGH SCHOOL'S GIRLS SOCCER TEAM FOR WINNING THE WASHINGTON STATE 4A CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Camas High School's girls soccer team for winning the Washington state 4A championship, the program's third state title and second in five years. The COVID-19 pandemic limited many of our prep athletes from competing during the 2020 season, yet high school athletes like the girls on the Camas soccer team have demonstrated the ability to adapt and persevere in these competitions. For the undefeated Papermakers, that perseverance has paid off in a big way.

Competing in prep sports is a wonderful opportunity to learn lessons in discipline, focus,

team play, work ethic, and comradery. Winning a state title is a momentous achievement this team can be proud of for the rest of their lives, and I have confidence they will find success using the lessons they learned while competing in soccer. Go Papermakers.

HONORING LT. COL. BEN JACKMAN

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Colonel Ben Jackman, Battalion Commander of the 2nd Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division.

Originally from Princeton, N.J., Lt. Col. Jackman has an elite pedigree from our nation's premier military institutions. After graduating from West Point, he completed Ranger School and served multiple deployments, first in Korea and subsequently in Iraq. In between tours abroad, he attended the Command and General Staff College and the Advanced Military Studies Program at Fort Leavenworth, before deploying to Afghanistan. In the almost 20 years that Lt. Col. Jackman has worn the uniform, he has earned multiple awards and decorations, including the Ranger Tab, the Combat Infantryman and Expert Infantryman Badges, the Bronze Star Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters.

In short, Lt. Col. Jackman is an officer's officer. He sets the standard for the other battalion commanders and officers around him—which is why, when the mission to safeguard the airport in Kabul demanded our nation's best, Lt. Col. Jackman stepped into the breach. He came face to face with a chaotic, dangerous situation on the ground, full of risk for both the Afghans crowding the gates and the troops responsible for guarding them. The mission demanded equal parts strategic knowledge of perimeter security as well as the human skills to determine who could get through.

The mission brought out the best of our nation's servicemen and women. It had them give up sleep and comfort to help load the sick, the elderly, and small children onto planes scheduled to depart. It required stamina and grit, and it involved sacrifice—11 Marines, an Army soldier and a Navy corpsman who gave their lives defending our allies.

Through it all, Lt. Col. Jackman is the reason that our group of more than 100 Afghans was able to safely make it inside the airport gates. His bravery and his command spared them from the danger they faced to life and limb.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Lt. Col. Ben Jackman for his willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in our effort to evacuate Afghan allies from Kabul and support them in their new life. For the profound dif-

ference that he has made in the lives of hundreds, if not thousands of individuals who are now safe, and for his actions that are in keeping with the highest traditions of our military and our nation, I submit these words—may they stand as a tribute to his dedicated service when the moment called for it most.

INITIATING A POSITIVE AND PRODUCTIVE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE OROMO COMMUNITY OF MINNESOTA AND THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, the ongoing civil conflict in Ethiopia is inflicting terrible suffering on the Ethiopian people of all ethnic groups. The mass killing of civilians, the violence against women, blatant human rights abuses, and displacement of nearly 2 million people are all the consequences of the Ethiopian government's brutal use of military force earlier this year. Now a civil war is raging among armed groups organized along ethnic lines that threatens the lives of millions of innocent civilians and has the potential to destabilize all of East Africa.

In Minnesota, we are fortunate to be home to the largest community of Oromo-Americans in the U.S. and quite possibly the largest Oromo community outside of Ethiopia. I am honored to represent many Oromo-American constituents, but I can say they are suffering because their family and friends in Ethiopia have for years been enduring violence, repression, and human rights abuses by the current government, and preceding Ethiopian governments as well.

Yesterday, my office hosted a direct dialogue between the leaders of the Oromo Community of Minnesota and representatives of the U.S. State Department's Africa Bureau led by Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary (PDAS) Ervin Massinga. The dialogue was an opportunity for the President of the Oromo Community of Minnesota, Ms. Leyla Abawari, and her colleagues to directly share their perspectives, concerns, and recommendations for U.S. diplomatic engagement in Ethiopia, as well as elevate the political and humanitarian issues facing the people of Oromia.

The Oromo-American representatives voiced their strong desire for ongoing U.S. diplomatic action with the goals of achieving peace, respect for human rights, democratic political freedoms, the release of political prisoners, and a humanitarian response that alleviates the horrible human suffering faced by the Oromo and all innocent Ethiopians caught in this conflict.

I applaud the State Department's diplomatic efforts in Ethiopia despite facing a very challenging situation and I know the Biden Administration is committed to continuing to work

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